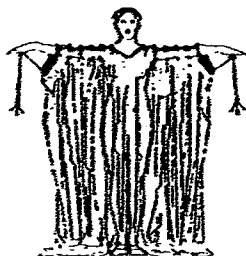
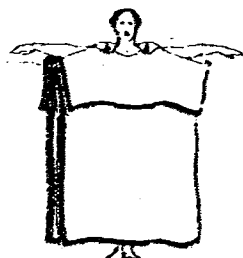


Name _____

Period _____

Number _____

CLOTHING OF THE GREEKS - 1



The chiton with a himation over it.

What the Greeks wore

Of course, over their long history ancient Greeks did not wear the same clothing styles. Those who lived on Crete in 1500 B.C. had fashions a bit different than those who followed Socrates around the gymnasium in 405 B.C. To simplify your task, however, only a few options will be featured.

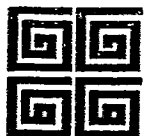
Women The clothing Greek women wore was more elaborate than their male counterparts. The women did all the work at the loom and then sewed clothing for themselves and their families. A balmy climate made loose-fitting, simply-cut garments a necessity. Oddly, the most frequently seen and worn item of clothing—the *chiton* (ky-ton)—was worn by both sexes. For women the chiton was also called a *peplos* (pep-lahs). It was simply a large piece of cloth, about as wide as both arms outstretched, folded over the top, and fastened on each shoulder by a brooch. Very often it was gathered at the waist by a girdle or belt. It could be ankle-length or come just below the knees. It was usually white, but could be dyed various colors. Often it had an embroidery trim, using several popular Greek geometric designs. In later Greek history, the chiton had pleats and sometimes sleeves. In cooler times of the year, women used wool as a fabric, but most often linen or muslin was utilized. Another popular garment, the *himation* (hi-MAY-teeons), was worn over the chiton, especially on cool evenings. It served as a cloak or shawl, and it was usually brightly colored. It, too, was simple to construct and resembled the chiton (two squares draped over a person). Often it was transparent linen. Women who could afford to show their elevated station in society often wore very elaborate jewelry made from metal or semiprecious stones. Examples are earrings, bracelets, necklaces, brooches, and rings. On their feet females wore the always popular sandal or went barefooted, especially in their homes. Hair for both sexes was worn long; females frequently curled their hair or put it up.

Men Very often men of ancient Greece wore clothes similar in cut and fashion to women. The chiton, for example, was worn by both sexes, as it was a basically universal garment by Greeks throughout their history. One visible difference: men might drape the fabric under the right arm to free that arm, and the garment normally would be shorter, probably for greater movement. Because the himation was mostly transparent, colorful, and mostly decorative, women wore it more often than men. Yet when men of Hellas prepared for and went to war, they added breastplates of leather, metal plates sewn on cloth, crested helmets of leather or bronze, the latter sometimes covering the entire face. Spears, swords, and big protectors (greaves) would complete the army "uniform." Like women, men wore sandals or went barefoot. In addition, men grew full beards out of convenience (shaving was crude) until the Hellenistic Era when Alexander the Great popularized a clean-shaven face. Many men wore brightly colored headbands (ribbons) or crowns of wreaths or flowers or leaves on special occasions like festivals.

Please circle all of the nouns in blue. How many common nouns and proper nouns did you find?

Common nouns _____

Proper nouns _____

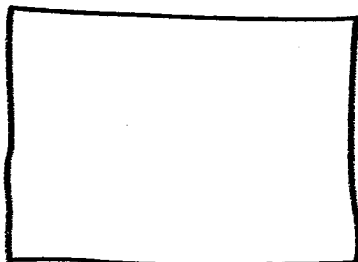


CLOTHING OF THE GREEKS - 3

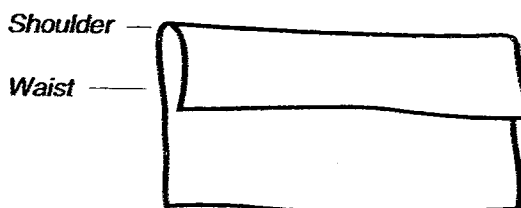
Instruction for the chiton

1. Find a fairly decent white sheet which would fit a twin-size bed. If you are over 5'3" or so, a double-size sheet would be better.
2. Lay the sheet lengthwise and fold over the top, about a third, for the desired shoulder-to-leg length. Fold in half.
3. Find one or two clasps (large safety pins) and fasten the front and back portions of the material so it is full and loose (or fasten the two pieces over just one shoulder and let the other shoulder be bare).
4. Locate a cord to cinch in the material at the waist, and to tuck in material if the chiton drags on the ground.

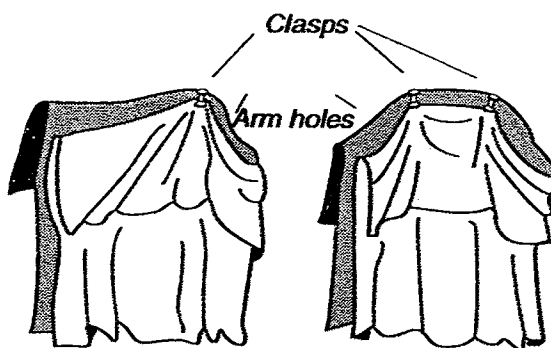
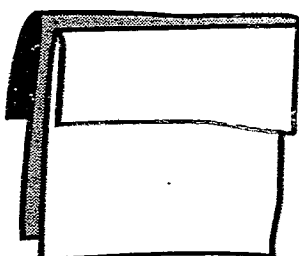
Lay the sheet lengthwise.



Fold over the top for desired shoulder-to leg length.



Fold in half.



Fasten in the two places at the top.

5. To finish, decorate with traditional Greek embroidery at the hemline and at the neck and arm holes. Here is an example of a Greek design pattern to consider using. (*Consider researching others.*)



Maroon-colored vinyl-coated adhesive tape is advised. In a pinch, electrical tape will do. Another possibility: cut a pattern of embroidery from colored felt, bias tape, or quilt binding and glue it on the material with Elmer's-type glue.